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METALLURGICAL WORKERS FAIL TO FULFILL PLEDGES

CALLS FOR REORGANIZATION OF WORK METHODS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 14 Aug 52

The Hungarian iron and steel workers failed to fulfill their pledges. Consequently, there are great deficiencies in pig iron and open-hearth steel. Although many of the leading metallurgists blame factors beyond their control for these deficiencies, the truth is that the metallurgical works have failed to create working conditions which would make pledge fulfillment possible. The directorate of the Ministry of Metallurgy has let the situation get out of hand, and the Communists of the metallurgical works have been anything but an inspiration and example to their fellow workers.

Working procedures must be reorganized throughout the industry, because most of the trouble stems from disorder within the works. At Diosgyor, for example, the furnaces were slowed down because the workers claimed they had too few ladles to remove the slag from the pig iron. Actually, the temporary slag dump was overflowing, and since no one had prepared a new one, it was impossible to empty the slag ladles.

Although the open-hearth plants complain that pig iron deliveries are irregular, they themselves often impede regular shipment by leaving the sheds so cluttered that there is no place to unload incoming material. As a result, the pig-iron-filled ladles are left blocking the tracks, and the foundries have to delay casting.

To operate efficiently, the foundries and open-hearth works must coordinate their production procedures, and then adhere strictly to their respective time schedules. Charging, casting, maintenance, and deliveries must be performed with precision and punctuality. While it is true that many of the metallurgical works are being rebuilt or expanded, this is no excuse for disorderliness.

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The quality of metallurgical output is another issue that has been receiving too little attention. In June only 7.4 percent of the pig iron which the Ozd metallurgical works sent to the steelworks conformed in grade to plan specifications, and only 10.1 percent of the lot sent in July was satisfactory. The Lorinc rolling mills have been making a practice of rolling sensitive boiler plates at a temperature of 1,100-1,150 degrees centigrade instead of the required 1,250-1,300 degrees centigrade. Such a disregard for directions not only causes rejects, but ruins production equipment. The efforts of some workers to save time by omitting important steps in steel production procedure lowers quality still further.

Although the technical managers are primarily responsible for the production of high-grade steel, every metallurgical worker, regardless of his duties, must be held to account. Unfortunately, the advice and instructions found in Soviet technological literature are accepted in theory rather than in practice.

Party organizations must focus their educational drives on every phase of steel production. The importance of disciplined, high-grade production needs further emphasis, and there should be greater concentration on increasing the output of production equipment. The organizations must not hesitate to put public blame on the loafing, incompetent worker and at the same time be generous with their praise for those who work well. They must conduct a daily analytical check of plan fulfillment in every shop, and ascertain whether plan fulfillment is qualitative as well as quantitative.

NEGLECT MAINTENANCE AT MILL -- Budapest, Esti Budapest, 8 Sep 52

For many months a faulty pump has been tying up production at the Steel Casting and Tubing Mill in Budapest. Repairs made on 25 August 1952 proved to be inadequate, and since then the furnace yields only seven instead of the required eight heats a day.

The maintenance men, and primarily Laszlo Ajkai, chief engineer, are guilty of negligence and must see to it that proper repairs are made immediately.

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